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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council a report submitted by the Deputy Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991.

2. The present report is the eighth semi-annual report by the Special Commission following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1051 (1996) of 27 March 1996, in paragraph 16 of which the Council called for the consolidation of the reports required under the Council's resolutions 699 (1991) of 17 June 1991 and 715 (1991) of 11 October 1991.[1]

[1] The Commission's 25 previous reports called for under these resolutions are contained in documents S/23165, S/23268, S/23801, S/24108 and Corr.1, S/24661, S/24984, S/25620, S/25977, S/26684, S/26910, S/1994/489, S/1994/750, S/1994/1138 and Corr.1, S/1994/1422 and Add.1, S/1995/284, S/1995/494, S/1995/864, S/1995/1038, S/1996/258, S/1996/848, S/1997/301, S/1997/774, S/1998/332, S/1998/529, S/1998/920 and S/1999/401.

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12. The field office in Bahrain is being held in caretaker status to preserve the capability to restart work as effectively and quickly as possible once the Security Council decides on future arrangements. In July the Commission moved the field office to a new location, in Manama, at the request of the Bahraini authorities. The Commission wishes to put on record its appreciation for the Government of Bahrain's generous provision of such facilities.

13. The Commission is grateful to those Governments that provide support and information relevant to its mandate. Additional information, in particular with respect to supplier data related to Iraq's prohibited programmes, would be of considerable value in assessing Iraq's compliance.